



July 5, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Fixed and Mobile Services in the Mobile Satellite Service Bands at 1525-1559 MHz and 1626.5-1660.5 MHz, 1610-1626.5 MHz and 2483.5-2500 MHz, and 2000-2020 MHz and 2180-2200 MHz*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) represents fifty of the nation's leading information and communications technology companies, including computer hardware and software, Internet services, and wireline and wireless networking companies. ITI is the voice of the high tech community, advocating policies that advance U.S. leadership in technology and innovation, open access to new and emerging markets, support e-commerce expansion, and enhance domestic and global competition.

ITI's members are at the forefront of developing and manufacturing the technologies and Internet services that are bringing cutting edge broadband innovation to the American public. Providing new and innovative ways for consumers and businesses to gain access to, and benefit from competition in the broadband marketplace will promote adoption and ensure that explosive advancements in devices, equipment, services, and applications continue for the foreseeable future. To this end, ITI supports the flexibility to allow greater use of the spectrum for mobile broadband taken by the Commission in the Report and Order for ET Docket No. 10-142, and would encourage the Commission to move forward to give flexibility for certain Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) licensees to build and operate terrestrial mobile broadband networks utilizing their spectrum. ITI also supports the reallocation of up to 90 MHz of certain MSS spectrum to mobile broadband use through voluntary incentive auctions.

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The advances in mobile devices, equipment, services, and applications, coupled with the rollout of next-generation wireless networks has caused a rapid increase in demand for spectrum dedicated to providing mobile broadband service. As the Commission pointed out in a technical paper last fall, the average of three data forecasts on future mobile broadband data traffic predict by 2014 traffic will reach 35 times the level seen in 2009.¹ Steps are being taken to address this growth. Wi-Fi networks are making use of unlicensed spectrum to provide extra capacity by taking data traffic off licensed networks, and technological advances are being made to deliver data faster and more efficiently. But these steps alone will not meet the needs of consumers and the growth in mobile data traffic. Congress, the FCC, and the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) must move forward on plans to repurpose spectrum to its highest valued use. Only through making more licensed and unlicensed spectrum available for mobile broadband, will we be able to meet our nation's demand for mobile services and promote continued innovation in this area.

As the Commission points out in the Report and Order, the *National Broadband Plan* (NBP) recommended making 90 megahertz of MSS spectrum available for terrestrial mobile broadband use, along with the possibility of using incentive auctions to transition this 90 megahertz to mobile broadband use.² This 90 MHz is a key component of the larger goal recommended by the NBP to make a total of 500 MHz of new spectrum available to provide mobile broadband service within 10 years.³ We urge the Commission to make available up to 90 MHz of MSS spectrum, as well as the remaining 410 MHz identified in the NBP, which will be critical for companies in the mobile communications ecosystem to continue the groundbreaking innovation we have seen over the past decade.

Voluntary incentive auctions provide the best means for repurposing spectrum with ideal propagation characteristics for delivering fourth generation mobile broadband service, and have the potential to provide 120 MHz of TV Band spectrum and up to 90 MHz of MSS spectrum for that purpose as called for in the NBP.⁴ Therefore, it is critical that Congress act this year to authorize the FCC to structure and conduct voluntary incentive auctions of TV broadcast, MSS, and other appropriate spectrum in a timely manner. Voluntary incentive auctions also provide the most efficient means for maximizing the value of spectrum, and providing the largest portion among the NBP recommendations that the Commission ultimately repurpose 500 MHz for mobile broadband.

¹ Mobile Broadband: The Benefits of Additional Spectrum, OBI Technical Paper No. 6, p. 9.

² Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan, Recommendation 5.8.4.

³ Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan, Recommendation 5.8. Of that 500 MHz, the NBP recommends making 300 MHz – of which 90 MHz is to come from MSS spectrum – available for mobile broadband service by 2015.

⁴ Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan, Recommendation 5.8.5.



Information Technology Industry Council

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Again, ITI is encouraged by the progress to this point on the Report and Order for ET Docket No. 10-142, and would encourage the Commission to move forward with adopting a final report in the near future as a step toward ensuring the vibrancy and innovation in our nation's mobile broadband communications ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Dean Garfield
President and CEO